

Shingo TAKEDA et al.

Docket No. 010973

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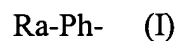
4. (Amended) A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in claim 1, wherein said water-borne urethane resin (1) is a water-borne urethane resin dispersed with a nonionic emulsifier having HLB of 10 to 18.

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6. (Amended) A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in claim 1, wherein said associated type thickener (2) has a hydrophobic group located at at least one terminal and also has a urethane bond in a molecular chain.

7. (Amended) A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in claim 1, wherein said associated type thickener (2) has a structure represented by the following structural formula (I):

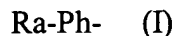


wherein R is a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>9</sub> alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl group; a represents an integer of 1 to 3; and Ph represents a phenyl ring residue.

8. (Amended) A water-borne urethane resin composition for forming a microporous layer as claimed in claim 1, wherein said water-borne urethane resin (1) contains (A) a polyoxyalkylene glycol having at least 50% by weight or more of a repeating unit of ethylene oxide and/or (B) a one terminal polyoxyalkylene glycol having at least 50% by weight or more of a repeating unit of ethylene oxide.

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11. (Amended) A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9, wherein said nonionic emulsifier has a structure represented by the following structural formula (I):



A3 wherein R is a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>9</sub> alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl group; a represents an integer of 1 to 3; and Ph represents a phenyl ring residue.

12. (Amended) A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9, wherein said associated type thickener is an associated type thickener which has a hydrophobic group located at at least one terminal and also has a urethane bond in a molecular chain.

13. (Amended) A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9, wherein said water-borne urethane resin is a water-borne urethane resin which contains (A) a polyoxyalkylene glycol having at least 50% by weight or more of a repeating unit of ethylene oxide and/or (B) a one terminal polyoxyalkylene glycol having at least 50% by weight or more of a repeating unit of ethylene oxide.

14. (Amended) A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9, wherein steam temperature is from 70 to 120°C.

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15. (Amended) A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9, wherein steam treatment time is from 10 seconds to 20 minutes.

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16. (Amended) A method of producing a fibrous sheet-like composite as claimed in claim 9, which further comprises drying at a temperature of 80 to 150°C after heat-sensitive coagulation with steam.

17. An artificial leather obtained by the method of claim 9.

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